

61-18091A

6 MAR 1961

Mr. James H. Tashjian /
 American Committee for the
 Independence of Armenia
 212 Stuart Street
 Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Tashjian:

Thank you very much for your letter of 20 February which Mr. Hovanessian delivered the other day to my assistant, Mr. [REDACTED] I was sorry I was unable STAT to receive Mr. Hovanessian myself but understood from Mr. [REDACTED] that they STAT had a good talk.

I am indeed honored to have been selected as the 1961 recipient of the annual American Committee for the Independence of Armenia Freedom Award, and it is with genuine regret that I find it necessary to decline your kind invitation to address the A.C.I.A. meeting on next May 26th. In my present official position, I am obliged to address the major United States Government Service Schools each year. In addition, I generally accept a very limited number of outside speaking engagements. Unfortunately, at the present time I just cannot undertake another speaking commitment, and it is for this reason I must regretfully decline your thoughtful invitation.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish you and the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia every success at your forthcoming celebration on May 26th of the Forty-third Anniversary of the founding of the Independent Republic of Armenia.

During his conversations here, Mr. Hovanessian suggested that if I were unable to be present in Boston personally, I designate someone to receive the award for me. In line with this suggestion I have asked Mr. [REDACTED] who is one of my senior assistants here to come to Boston to receive, on my behalf, the Freedom Award for which the A.C.I.A. has so graciously selected me as the recipient.

STAT

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
 Director

O/DCI [REDACTED] : vgd 2 Mar 61

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